

***NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE  
PRODUCT/SERVICE DESCRIPTION DOCUMENT (PDD)  
TYPE: Official Product  
DATE: June 19, 2003***

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TROPICAL CYCLONE FORECAST/ADVISORIES

**Part 1 - Mission Connection**

**1. Product/Service Description:**

The Tropical Cyclone Forecasts/Advisories Product (TCM) is a text product prepared by the National Weather Services (NWS) National Hurricane Center (NHC) and the Central Pacific Hurricane Center (CPHC) for tropical cyclones in their respective basin of responsibility. TCMs are issued for the Atlantic and eastern Pacific basins by the NHC. TCMs are issued for the central Pacific by the CPHC. The product title depends on the intensity of the tropical cyclone, to include: Tropical Depression Advisory, Tropical Storm Advisory, Hurricane/Typhoon Advisory. This product is also issued for subtropical storms.

**2. Purpose/Intended Use:**

The TCM provides critical tropical cyclone watch, warning, and forecast information. Issuance criteria for the TCD is provided in NWSI 10-601.

**3. Audience:**

The Department of Defense is a primary customer for this product. However, this product is widely used by other NWS National Centers and WFOs; federal, state, and local government agencies; state and local emergency managers; Nations in the Caribbean and Central America, media and maritime interests.

**4. Presentation Format:**

This is a text product. Advisories usually begin with a lead statement detailing the geographic extent of tropical cyclone watches and warnings. Advisories include the following elements: current storm location by latitude and longitude, current storm movement, estimated minimum central pressure, maximum sustained winds, radii of 34-, 50- and 64- knot winds by quadrant, and radii of 12 foot seas by quadrant. Also provided are the 12-, 24-, 36-, 48-, 72-, 96-, and 120-hour forecast storm positions, maximum wind speeds, and wind speed radii by quadrants (except 96- and 120-hour forecasts).

TCMs for active tropical cyclones in the Atlantic and East Pacific basins are provided at:  
<http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/>.

TCMs for tropical cyclones affecting the Central Pacific basin are provided at:  
<http://www.prh.noaa.gov/pr/hnl/cphc/pages/cphc.shtml>.

**5. Feedback Method:**

Continuous feedback is available via an Internet page e-mail link to the program managers in the Marine and Coastal Weather Services Branch.

Technical and policy questions, and comments for the TCD may be addressed to:

National Weather Service  
Attn: Scott Kiser, W/OS21  
Tropical Cyclone Program Manager  
1325 East-West Highway, Room 13126  
Silver Spring, MD 20910-3283

or e-mail questions and comments to: [Scott.Kiser@noaa.gov](mailto:Scott.Kiser@noaa.gov)

## Part 2 - Technical

### 1. **Format and Science Basis:**

The TCM is a text product produced by hurricane forecasters providing a detailed current assessment and forecast for each tropical and subtropical system. The product is generally disseminated after coordination telephone calls have been made with affected WFOs, National Centers, such as the Storm Prediction Center and the Hydrometeorological Prediction Center and Department of Defense.

### 2. **Availability:**

The product is disseminated at 0300, 0900, 1500, and 2100 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC). The product is made available via various means of dissemination such as: the Internet, U.S. Coast Guard Radio Broadcasts, the NOAA Weather Radio, NOAA Weather Wire and NOAAPort.

### 3. **Additional Information:**

A full description of this and other NWS Tropical Cyclone Weather Services Program Products is provided in NWSI 10-601, which is available on the Internet at:

[http://www.nws.noaa.gov/directives/010/operation\\_services.htm](http://www.nws.noaa.gov/directives/010/operation_services.htm).